1	2
4. Hind. Insecticide Ltd.	A.F. Ferguson
5. Hind. Org. Cheml Ltd.	A.F. Ferguson
6. HTL	KPMG India Private Ltd.
7. Hindustan Zinc Limited	BNP Paribas
8. Indian Airlines	IDBI-ANZ Grindlays Bank-speedwing
9. IBP Ltd.	HSBC Securities & Capital Markets (I) Ltd.
10. IPCL	Warburg Dillion Read
11. ITDC	Lazard India Ltd.
12. Madras Fertilizer Ltd.	ICICI Securities-Bank of America
13. National Fertilizers Ltd.	Rabo Finance Private Ltd.
14. Paradeep Phosphate Ltd.	Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India Pvt. Ltd.
15. Sponge Iron India Ltd.	A.F. Ferguson
16. Bh. Hvy. Plts. & Vssels	S.B. Billimoria
17. Bharat Leather Corpn.	SBI Capital Markets Ltd.
18. Bharat Pumps & Comp	SBI Capital Markets Ltd.
19. Hindustan Cables Ltd.	ICICI Securities
20. Hindustan Salts	SBI Capital Markets Ltd.
21. Instrumentation Ltd.	IDBI
22. Jessop & Co.	A.F. Ferguson
23. NEPA Ltd.	SBI Capital Markets Ltd.
24. Scooters India Ltd.	Price Waterhouse Coopers
25. Tungabhadra Steels	IDBI
26. Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL)	CS First Boston & SBI Capital Markets Limited Consortium

Companies exploring high Quality Metals

†2396. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private companies will only explore the high quality metal with a view to earning profit;

(b) if so, whether these companies will also be committed to explore medium and low quality metals;

(c) if not, whether it will not amount to the misappropriation of nation's wealth and who will be held responsible for it; and

(d) the complete details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) Any entrepreneur, irrespective of whether he is in the private or in the public sector, while taking an investment decision, is guided by the economic viability of mining the mineral in question. Economic viability of mining depends on both demand and supply factors. The grade of the mineral to be mined is only one such factor which determines the economic viability in a given scenario. Every grade of mineral has its own level of economic viability. Hence, when the market forces are such that the cost of production of a medium or low-grade mineral can be met through the sale price realized, such grades of mineral also get mined, both in the public and the private sector. Thus the question of any misutilization of the country's resources by the private sector mining companies does not arise.

Disinvestment of PSUs

2397. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the Public Units which have already disinvested their equity till March, 31, 2000 since the formation of Disinvestment Commission;

(b) the prevailing market rate of shares on the date of disinvestment and at present; and

(c) the amount realized from disinvestment of public sector units and the purpose for which the same is proposed to be utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) After the formation of the Disinvestment Commission in August 1996, disinvestment has taken place in the following Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs):—

Sl. No.	Name of the PSUs	Year
1.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL). (GDR offering)	1996-97 (March 1997)